

A note on *Medon dilutus* (Er.) (Col.: Staphylinidae) in Britain

Very little indeed is known of this species in our country, where it appears to be excessively rare. In Hyman and Parsons (1994, *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*, part 2) it is omitted from the body of the work for reasons that are not very clear, though included in Dr Hyman's original list (*op.cit.* p.19). As only three specimens are known to have occurred, it may have been regarded as of doubtful British status; however, the records indicate a genuine native, albeit one of our rarest insects. The available details, being poorly known, are assembled here.

Scotland: banks of Cairn, Solway district (D. Sharp, no data given; Fowler, 1888, *Col.Brit.Isl.* 2: 315). England: Tubney Wood, near Oxford, 20.xi.1899 (C.E. Collins; Joy, 19.4, *Ent.mon.Mag.* 40: 14); and New Forest (J.J. Walker). This last capture may not have been previously published, or not with full data; these are provided by a MS note of H. Donisthorpe's that I have, according to which the beetle was taken "running on the bark at the foot of a *Cossus*-infected oak in Frame Wood near Brockenhurst, 15.vii.1907". Since that year *M. dilutus* has not, apparently, been seen here, but may possibly be found again.

Although Joy (see above) must have examined and determined the Collins specimen, he nevertheless omitted the species from his *Practical Handbook* (1932). I possess a specimen purchased many years ago at Janson's as an example of *M. castaneus* (Grav.); but later identified for me on the Continent as *M. dilutus*, and agreeing with the descriptions of that species. Most unfortunately it lacks data, but was believed to be British.

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***Oxyna flavipennis* (Loew, 1844) (Diptera: Tephritidae) new to Essex**

On 5.vii.1995 whilst carrying out an insect survey on the Roman wall at Colchester (TL9925), I took a male tephritid on an inflorescence of Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*.

On consulting White, 1988 (*Tephritid flies*. London, Royal Ent. Soc.) I identified it as *Oxyna flavipennis* (Loew), a nationally notable species hitherto unrecorded from Essex. The specimen was sent to Laurence Clemons, organiser of the Tephritid Recording Scheme, who kindly confirmed my determination.

The larvae of *flavipennis* develop in galls on the roots of *A. millefolium* and, according to Falk, 1991 (*A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain* (Part 1). Peterborough, NCC) the species may require plants growing in particularly warm and sheltered conditions. Such conditions certainly prevail at the present site, where a steep, well drained, south facing bank abuts the stonework of the Roman wall.

I would like to thank Laurence Clemons for confirming the identity of *O. flavipennis* and for information on its current distribution in Great Britain.

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